



Craspedoxantha indica sp. nov.

- 1. Adult male ;
- 2. Aedeagus (lateral view) ;
- 3. Genitalia (lateral view) ;
- 4. Head (lateral view) ;
- 5. Sense organ, enlarged.

The moth is orange-brown, with the forewing crossed by a black curved antimedial line and irregularly undulated postmedial line, which curves below and touches a black streak. The hind wing is crossed by two medial blackish wavy lines and a marginal line in black. Outer borders of the wings are darkest in colour. The fore legs are whitish with black bands. The wing expanse is 6/10-7/10 in. (c. 15-17 mm.).

ECONOMIC STATUS

The insect appeared in large numbers on a bed of mint in the orchard and completely damaged the crop in one month. It occurred in May and June by which time all the plants had been affected. It thus seems to be a serious pest of the crop.

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July 7, 1960.	P. P. VASUDEVA MENON

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21. A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *CRASPEDOXANTHA* BEZZI, 1913, FROM INDIA (DIPTERA: TRYPETIDAE)

(With a plate)

The genus *Craspedoxantha* was first erected by Bezzi in 1913 with *Craspedoxantha octopunctata* as the type. The description of the genus was based upon a single female specimen from the Dawna Hills (Lower Burma), collected in 1908. This species was subsequently recorded from Bangalore (Senior-White 1922) and from Delhi (Bhatia 1939) and I am glad to be able to describe a new species.

***Craspedoxantha indica* sp. nov.**

MALE. General coloration of the body cream-yellow; length of body 4.13 mm.; wing 4.62 mm. long, 1.47 mm. broad, 3.14 times as long as broad.

Head. Length, width, and height of the head, 0.86 mm., 1.44 mm., and 1.19 mm. respectively; frons slightly convex, 0.57 mm. long, 0.75 mm. wide, 1.2 times as long as the maximum width of either eye; face concave; eyes scarlet-red, sharply contrasting with the cream-yellow colour of the head; each eye in profile 0.92 mm. high and 0.48 mm. wide, 1.9 times as high as wide; third antennal segment with its ventral side gently curving towards the dorsal apex; length of second segment 0.19 mm., length of third segment 0.29 mm., the third segment 1.5 times longer than the second; the antennal segments concolorous with the head, arista brown and 0.38 mm. long; proboscis capitate; maxillary palpi moderately broad with a few very fine yellow bristles; premental plate (theca) concolorous with the proboscis which is cream-yellow; ocellars yellow; lower orbitals three, yellow; upper orbitals two, yellow; inner verticals yellow; outer verticals yellow; postocellars pale, scale-like; post-verticals pale, scale-like; postorbitals (occipital row) consisting of approximately ten, pale scale-like, small bristles; genals yellow.

Thorax. Dorsum of thorax light reddish yellow and covered with very short white hairs; the notopleural calli, the humeral calli, the pleurae, and the scutellum cream-yellow; mesosterna and metasterna reddish yellow; prosternum cream-yellow; scutellum 0.42 mm. long, 0.81 mm. wide, the apical half of the scutellum bearing small, dark brown hairs; two pairs of black spots forming a square in the middle of the dorsum of thorax behind the suture and bearing the dorsocentral and prescutellar bristles; one black spot just postero-ventral to the presutural bristle; one black spot ventral to the anterior supra-alar bristle; one black spot posterior to the first posterior supra-alar bristle, situated between the latter and the basal angle of the scutellum; one black spot just postero-dorsal to the wing-base; a pair of black, coalesced spots at the antero-mesal aspect of the mesosternum; legs cream-yellow; fore femora underneath with a longitudinal row of seven strong yellow bristles, dorsally with two longitudinal rows of moderately developed bristles; hind femora with four asymmetrically placed yellow bristles on the dorsal side near the end; hind tibiae with a comb-like row of stout, yellow bristles situated longitudinally on the dorsal side and pointing anteriorly; scapulars with no definite number; humerals pale; anterior noto-

pleurals pale; posterior notopleurals pale; presuturals pale; dorsocentrals pale, situated slightly anteriorly to the anterior supra-alars and longitudinally in line with the prescutellars; anterior supra-alars pale; posterior supra-alars two pale; mesopleural, pteropleural, and sternopleural pale, one each; scutellars four pale; wings with all the veins, except the second brown-yellow; second vein creamy-white; first vein bristly; third vein bare, but with a few (approximately four) bristles at the base; costal bristles two, one of them being comparatively smaller; wing pattern as shown in the figure.

A b d o m e n. Colour of abdomen cream-yellow, the terga being slightly darker; first tergum abundantly clothed with short white hairs, the rest of terga with dark brown hairs, which are stouter along the lateral margins; pregenital part of the abdomen 1.69 mm. long, 1.67 mm. wide, 0.67 mm. wide at the base; fifth tergum 0.57 mm. long, equal to the preceding two terga in length; the genital segments also cream-yellow, except the black teeth of the outer claspers; a black spot on each antero-lateral angle of terga 3 to 5, the spot on tergum 3 being more or less concealed by the preceding tergum, the spots on terga 4 and 5 being partly so; a black spot on anterior margin of terga 3 and 4 close to the mid-longitudinal line of the abdomen, the spots on tergum 3 being more or less concealed by the tergum preceding, those on the tergum 4 are partly so; a moderately broad black border along the anterior margin of tergum 5, bluntly interrupted in the middle and tapering laterally towards the black spot at the antero-lateral angle of tergum 5; a black spot on postero-lateral angle of tergum 5 bearing a bristle; surstyli not bifid or lobate; the genital ring with a hood-like structure in its anterior one-third; flutella pronged; the details of the genital structures and the aedeagus as shown in the figures.

FEMALE: Unknown.

HOLOTYPE: One male, in personal collection (ZR 1), collected while sitting on the leaves of *Xanthium strumarium* (Compositae), 4.7.1959.

HOST: Unknown.

LOCALITY: University Campus, Aligarh, India.

DISCUSSION

This species resembles *Craspedoxantha octopunctata* Bezzi in its 8 black spots on the thorax, and in the wing pattern, but it differs in the following characters:

1. 12 black spots on the abdomen (besides a black border along

the anterior margin of the fifth tergum); in the genotype the abdomen is uniformly reddish yellow.

2. The thorax is light reddish yellow and not dark ferruginous.

3. The scutellum is cream-yellow and not dark ferruginous.

4. The occiput is pale without any grey pollen.

5. There are two upper orbitals instead of one (in this connection a re-examination of the genotype is highly desirable which unfortunately is not available).

6. The 2nd vein is creamy-white and not yellow.

7. A double longitudinal row of bristles on the dorsal side of the fore femora.

8. Four asymmetrically placed bristles on the dorsal side of the hind femora near the end.

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REFERENCE

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22. UNUSUAL NEST-SITE OF THE SOCIAL SPIDER, *STEGODYPHUS SARASINORUM* KARSCH

(With a plate)

The nest of the Social Spider, *Stegodyphus sarasinorum* Karsch (Family Erisidae), is a familiar sight in the scrub jungles of Tambaram. The nests are usually constructed on shrubs and trees with a preference for those with thorns and for rough-stemmed plants, like *Grewia* (Tiliaceae) and *Atalantia* (Rutaceae), and more rarely on the prickly pear plant as observed by Jambunathan (1905) and Savory (1928).

An unusual nest building site was noticed by me on the barbed wire fencing of a compound about a mile north of Tambaram. Here